

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) — A fingerprint collating device for collating a user's fingerprint with registered fingerprint information to effect personal authentication, said device comprising:

a fingerprint reader for reading said fingerprint to create read fingerprint information, and to create read ~~hysteresis~~-history information indicating that said read fingerprint information has been created;

a read ~~hysteresis~~-history storage for storing said read ~~hysteresis~~-history information; and  
a collator for collating said read fingerprint information with said registered fingerprint information to effect personal authentication and output a result of authentication when said read ~~hysteresis~~-history information is stored in said read ~~hysteresis~~-history storage.

2. (Currently amended) The fingerprint collating device according to claim 1,  
wherein said collator effects said personal authentication by using said registered fingerprint information supplied from an external storage medium.

3. (Original) The fingerprint collating device according to claim 1 further comprising:  
registered fingerprint information storage for storing said registered fingerprint information, in which said collator effects said personal authentication by using said registered fingerprint information stored in said registered fingerprint information storage.

4. (Currently amended) A fingerprint collating method for collating a user's fingerprint with registered fingerprint information to effect personal authentication, said method comprising the steps of:

reading said fingerprint to create read fingerprint information, and to create read ~~hysteresis~~-history information indicating that said read fingerprint information has been created;  
storing said read ~~hysteresis~~-history information in read hysteresis storing means; and  
collating said read fingerprint information with said registered fingerprint information to effect personal authentication and output a result of authentication when said read ~~hysteresis~~-history information is stored in said read ~~hysteresis~~-history storing means.